

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material comprising a polymeric substrate, a silver salt which is a complex of Ag⁺ and an anionic polymer, and a dyestuff to photostabilize the silver salt.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a solid bioabsorbable material, selected from the group consisting of collagens, oxidized celluloses, chitosans, galactomannans, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereto.

Claim 3 (Original): A wound dressing material according to claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a solid bioabsorbable material selected from the group consisting of collagens, oxidized celluloses, chitosans, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Original): A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of celluloses, alginates, polyacrylates, polyurethanes, polyamides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the wound dressing material is in the form of a continuous solid sheet, an apertured solid sheet, a web, a woven fabric, a knitted fabric, a nonwoven fabric, a freeze-dried sponge or a solvent-dried sponge.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the ~~composition~~ salt complex comprises from about 0.01 wt. % to about 5 wt. % of silver, based on the dry weight of the composition.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the dyestuff comprises an antioxidant dyestuff, ~~for example~~ selected from the group consisting of aniline dyes, acridine dyes, thionine dyes, bis-naphthalene dyes, thiazine dyes, azo dyes, anthraquinones, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (Original): A wound dressing material according to claim 8, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of gentian violet, aniline blue, methylene blue, crystal violet, acriflavine, 9-aminoacridine, acridine yellow, acridine orange, proflavin, quinacrine, brilliant green, trypan blue, trypan red, malachite green, azacrine, methyl violet, methyl orange, methyl yellow, ethyl violet, acid orange, acid yellow, acid blue, acid red, thioflavin, alphazurine, indigo blue, methylene green, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A wound dressing material according to claim 8, wherein the dyestuff is present in an amount of from about 0.2 to about 2 wt. % based on the dry weight of the material.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the polymeric substrate consists essentially of a mixture of an oxidized cellulose with a collagen, ~~and/or~~ a chitosan, or both a collagen and a chitosan.

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Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A wound dressing material according to claim 11, wherein the material is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing material according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the material has a free radical activity in the diphenylpicrylhydrazyl (DPPH) test for antioxidant activity ~~as herein defined~~ of at least about 15%.

Claim 14-19 (Canceled).